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1 EPA official says safety is top concern at Camp Minden, News Star, 1/22/15

<http://www.thenewsstar.com/story/opinion/readers/2015/01/21/epa-official-says-safety-top-concern-camp-minden/22132287/>

I want to assure residents of northwestern Louisiana that your safety has been and continues to be the top priority for the Environmental Protection Agency staff regarding the Camp Minden site. In hearing from citizens and elected officials, we understand a more deliberate discussion of disposal methods is a vital step to take in the cleanup process.

2 - Inequality in the Air We Breathe?, NY Times, 1/21/15

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/22/opinion/charles-blow-inequality-in-the-air-we-breathe.html>

For years, one of the largest employers in that area was the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant, about four miles from Minden. The Environmental Protection Agency eventually listed the plant as a Superfund site because for more than 40 years “untreated explosives-laden wastewater from industrial operations was collected in concrete sumps at each of the various load line areas,” and emptied into “16 one-acre pink water lagoons.” It was determined that the toxic contamination in soil and sediments from the lagoons was a “major contributor” to toxic groundwater contamination. But wait, it gets worse.

3 - Petition calling for safe removal of M-6 propellant delivered to local officials, KSLA, 1/21/15

<http://www.ksla.com/story/27907664/petition-calling-for-safe-removal-of-m-6-propellant-delivered-to-local-officials>

The organization is demanding a safe removal of the Camp Minden explosives in Webster Parish.

Wednesday, members delivered a petition to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Senator David Vitter's Office and Representative John Fleming's office.

4 – Questions and answers about oil and gas wastewater spills, El Paso Times, 1/21/2015

http://www.elpasotimes.com/nationworld/ci_27367000/questions-and-answers-about-oil-and-gas-wastewater

Nearly 3 million gallons of briny water generated by crude oil production has leaked from a North Dakota pipeline and reached two creeks, making it the biggest spill of this type of wastewater since the state's Bakken formation oil boom began in 2006.

5 – Smoking ban and earthquakes were the topics of Irving Town Hall, Dallas News, 1/21/2015

http://www.elpasotimes.com/opinion/ci_27359615/texas-should-take-lead-climate-solutions

Avi Selk reports that hundreds of people attended the city's Town Hall last night, troubled by the air around them and the earth beneath their feet. Most came to

the Irving Arts Center to ask the mayor and council members about dozens of small earthquakes that have been barraging the city since last fall — four of them just hours before the meeting.

6 – BP oil spill trial: U.S. witnesses to detail spill's economic impact, role of BP parent company on Thursday, Times Picayune, 1/22/2015

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2015/01/bp_oil_spill_trial_us_witnesse.html#incart_river

The U.S. government will continue on Thursday to build its case that BP should pay the maximum \$13.7 billion fine for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, this time calling on an expert witness to describe the spill's economic impact. The day will also include testimony from experts who will detail how BP's corporate structure should inform fines.

7 – Nearly 3M gallons of brine leak from pipeline, Times Picayune, 1/21/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/01/north_dakota_spill_nearly_3m_g.html#incart_river

Nearly 3 million gallons of saltwater generated by oil drilling have leaked from a North Dakota pipeline, an official said Wednesday, the largest such spill since the state's current oil boom began and nearly three times worse than any previous spill. Two creeks have been affected, but the full environmental effect might not be clear for months.

8 - US Geological Survey to Increase Earthquakes Risk Levels in Texas, State Impact, 1/21/2015

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2015/01/21/us-geological-survey-to-increase-earthquakes-risk-levels-in-texas/>

A seismic hazard map is essentially what it sounds like – a map that shows the potential for earthquakes in certain areas. The maps give people a sense of the likelihood of earthquakes occurring, where they might occur, and how strong they might be. The maps can influence everything from public policy to building codes to insurance rates.

“They govern hundreds of billions of dollars in constructions and insurance cost every year,” says Mark Peterson, project chief of the USGS’s National Seismic Hazard Mapping project.

9 – Coastal Master Plan could grow by \$20 billion, state planners say, NOLA.com, 1/21/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/01/coastal_master_plan_could_grow.html#incart_river

The state's coastal protection and restoration Master Plan could grow by \$20 billion, based on additional projects being reviewed for the plan's 2017 revision, a senior planner with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority said Wednesday (January 21). State planners have reviewed and winnowed down more than \$111 billion in additions proposed in in 2014 and early this year, said Karim Belhadjali during a presentation to the CPRA's board of directors at the state Capitol.

10 – As Authorities Use Permit Process to Scrutinize Wells in Earthquake Country, Oil Industry Remains Silent, State Impact, 1/22/2015

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/01/22/as-authorities-use-permit-process-to-scrutinize-wells-in-earthquake-country-oil-industry-remains-silent/>

As earthquakes continue to rattle Oklahoma and scientists study links to oil and gas production, many Oklahomans want to know what, if anything, is being done to address the shaking. An investigation by StateImpact shows that while authorities are quietly scrutinizing wells in quake-prone parts of the state, most of the companies that operate the wells are staying silent.

11 – Senate votes for measure declaring climate change isn't a hoax, but against bills blaming human activity, Times Picayune, 1/21/2015

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/01/senate_votes_for_measure_decla.html#incart_river

Louisiana's two Republican senators, David Vitter and Bill Cassidy, voted for the measure declaring climate change real and not a hoax, but against the other amendments asserting that the climate is being impacted by human activities, whether significantly or not. Attempts Wednesday night to get an explanation for their votes failed.

12- Coastal programs to see 5 percent budget cuts in 2015-16, Coastal Authority Executive Director says, Times Picayune, 1/21/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/01/coastal_programs_to_see_5_perc.html#incart_river

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority will see a 5 percent cut in its budget, including for restoration and protection projects, in fiscal year 2015 and 2016, the authority's director confirmed Wednesday evening. The cuts are in line with reductions being requested of other state agencies by Gov. Bobby Jindal. "Similar to other state agencies, we were asked to provide 5 percent as allowable by law," said Authority Executive Director Kyle Graham in an email. "That equates to \$2.2M for FY15 and FY16."

13 -- EPA official says agency is working hard on RFS, but issue is complex, Agri Pulse, 1/21/15

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/EPA-official-says-agency-is-working-hard-on-RFS-but-issue-is-complex-01212015.asp>

An Environmental Protection Agency official says agency employees charged with rule-making for the Renewable Fuels Standard every year are working hard to implement changes, but the growing complexity of the statute is slowing their progress. Speaking to members of the National Biodiesel Board at their annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas, EPA Senior Policy Adviser Paul Argyropoulos said a rule covering Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) should be coming from the agency in the coming months.

14 Two steps, one sticker begins later this year, Sealy News, 1/22/15

http://www.sealynews.com/news/article_223cdfb6-a1ab-11e4-b57c-9bf2d2e1ab86.html

Austin County Tax Assessor-Collector Marcus A. Peña is informing motorists of the Texas "One Sticker Program" set for March 1, 2015. In an effort to keep our public aware of the ever-changing laws in our transportation code, Peña wishes to pass along information from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

15- Texas Unveils Fracking Country Air Monitor Set to Track Pollution, Environmental Technology Online, 1/22/15

http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/air-monitoring/6/breaking_news/texas_unveils_fracking_country_air_monitor_set_to_track_pollution/33053/

Karnes County and surrounding districts welcomed exciting news this month with the announcement that an air monitor has been installed in the heart of the Eagle Ford Shale formation. As the biggest oil and gas development on the planet, the sedimentary rock formation received over US\$30 billion of developmental investment in 2013! Yet despite the immense value of what lies beneath the constant extraction of resources has left environmental specialists questioning the quality of the surrounding air.

16- Another Yellowstone River oil spill, High County News, 1/22/15

<https://www.hcn.org/articles/pipeline-safety-regulation-little-changed-since-last-yellowstone-river-oil-spill>

This weekend, a pipeline leaked up to 40,000 gallons of crude oil into the Yellowstone River upstream of Glendive, Montana, which draws its drinking water from the river. Residents reported foul smells wafting from their taps, and testing revealed elevated benzene levels in the municipal treatment plant's water.

17- Environmental Task Force Looking at Water, Air Quality, four States, 1/21/15

<http://www.fourstateshomepage.com/story/d/story/environmental-task-force-looking-at-water-air-qual/37318/LGLTdKMqqUShBoCDRWmg6g>

A local environmental group is hoping more people will take steps to protect four states air and water quality. The Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton Counties works with issues ranging from EPA clean up activities to water quality and ozone levels. The project started out more than a decade ago based in Joplin, later expanding to the two county area. And that group also works with those in northeast Oklahoma and southeast Kansas on issues like Spring River, which crosses state lines.